

Colorado Connections

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ACTE Announces CTE Student Essay Contest

ACTE has announced its fifth annual Cliff Weiss Essay Contest in memory of their former ACTE senior director of communications. ACTE sponsors this annual event as an opportunity to recognize career and technical education students who have a passion and talent for writing. The contest is open to all high school or college students who are taking at least one course in CTE. The student winners will each receive an award of \$250 and have their essays published in ACTE's *Techniques* magazine.

The topic for high school students is "How would you communicate the impact and importance of CTE related to your community?" For college students, the topic is "How do you envision the type of programs and course content in CTE evolving over the next few years and what is driving this change?" High school student essays should be 500 words or less, while college student essays should be at least 500 words.

Entries for the contest must be received by March 31, and should be submitted to: Cliff Weiss Essay Contest, ACTE, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Essays can be submitted by e-mail to essay-contest@acteonline.org. Questions may be directed to Sabrina Kidwai at skidwai@acteonline.org.



A Personal Reflection

In the course of life, one never knows what path we may follow in our lifetime. Both personal and professional events shape the direction that lead you through your personal journey. As I embark on a new chapter in my life as the new Program Director for TT & I, it is natural to look back and reflect and put some perspective on a personal journey.

When I became the new caretaker of SkillsUSA Colorado a couple of years ago, I took the job with doubt of whether this was the right move for me. I also started the job while recuperating from a broken leg. As I prepare to pass the torch and move on to new challenges, I can honestly say the last 2 1/2 years has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had, both personally and professionally. It is a chapter of my life I will never forget.

I want to give a personal thank you to advisors, students, business partners and state officers who have made this opportunity so special. A very special thank you to Herb, Sue, Janet, Michele, Bob, Sherri and Darrell, you are the greatest! Thank You!

Ben

"We must always change, renew and rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise we harden"

Johann von Goethe

New Video Contest

Through a partnership with the Center for Energy Workforce Development and School Tube, SkillsUSA announces the "Get Into Energy Video Contest".

What is the SkillsUSA Get Into Energy Careers in Energy Video Contest? The SkillsUSA/Get Into Energy Video Contest launched in February, 2008

and is devoted to putting energy workers in a new perspective through talent, creativity and inspiration. This event gives SkillsUSA members in select occupational areas the opportunity to express themselves positively, provide education and support to their peers through the development of original, and compelling videos about their local energy companies to learn more about energy careers.

The winning school will receive a \$1,000 award. Up to three honorable mention awards of \$300 each may also be distributed. The deadline for entries is June 1, 2008.

For more information and contest guidelines visit the SkillsUSA web site at <http://www.skillsusa.org/compete/schooltubeenergy.shtml/>.



State Directors Corner

2008 Colorado Leadership and Skills Championships

The 2008 Leadership and Skills Conference is fast approaching. Please adhere to all deadlines as listed in the Call to Conference. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated!

New State Advisor Update

Tony Raymond has accepted the position of Assistant Program Director for TT&I and SkillsUSA/TSA State Advisor. Tony will be joining us on a part-time basis until he concludes his current teaching assignment with Englewood Public Schools. Tony has served as the TSA State Officer Advisor and has experience in working with CTSO organizations. Tony will start full time on July 14. Please welcome Tony to Colorado SkillsUSA.

Alumni Merit Scholarships Available

The SkillsUSA Alumni Association is offering two merit-based \$500 scholarships to qualifying students. These scholarships recognize the unique qualities of SkillsUSA members including demonstrated leadership, commitment to community service, and improving the image of career and technical education. To apply, students must fill out an application that documents their SkillsUSA and technical education achievements. The deadline is May 15, 2008. To download the application, go to: <http://www.skillsusa.org/supporters/alumnischolar.shtml>.

Silent Auction Items

Once again this year, Colorado SkillsUSA is seeking silent auction donations for this year's state conference. Gift certificates or items that reflect your program would be greatly appreciated.

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Quote of the Month:

"Do not wait for extraordinary circumstances to do good; try to use ordinary situations."

Jean Paul Richter

SkillsUSA Calendar



March 21	Registration Deadline for State Conference
March 28	Payment for State Conference is Due
March 28	All District Results are Due
March 29-30	NJC Car Show, Sterling, Colorado
April 10 -11	Colorado SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championship, Colorado Springs, CO
June 23-27	44th Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, Kansas City, MO



2008 Colorado Conference Pin
Andy Balzer, Boulder TEC

2008 Pin Design Contests

Colorado Pin Contest Winners

Colorado SkillsUSA would like to congratulate the following students from Boulder TEC as this year's winner of the 2008 state pin contest:

First Place:	Andy Balzer	Students will be recognized at the 2008 State Conference!
Second Place:	Mary Scott	
Third Place:	Rachel Wrangham	